

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings, Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, McCann, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Kauffman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Laura Wilder, Executive Director of Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) said the commission is self governed and serves to enhance the profitability of the Idaho barley growers through research, market development, promotion, information and education. Idaho's altitude, high desert climate and agronomic conditions make it an ideal location to grow barley. Of the 55,000,000 bushels of barley produced in Idaho about 75% goes to make malt. Idaho is the number one barley producing state in the US followed by Montana and North Dakota. Whole grains are an important source of complex carbohydrates, dietary fiber, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals and have been linked in protecting individuals from cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes. Barley is a good source of soluble & insoluble fiber, and contains fiber throughout the entire kernel.

The IBC has a higher than usual carryover to end fiscal year (FY) 2021 due to Covid-19 program changes and unspent funds. Those funds rolled over to the FY 2022 budget with increased program funding. Idaho retained its status as the number one barley producing state. The 2021 market conditions resulted in a decrease in sales income.

Farmers in Eastern Idaho are now in a "prevent plant" situation in some areas as canal companies are planning cutbacks from the start of the season. The first watering to growers will not go out at 100%, and the farmers won't plant because they won't be able to harvest a crop, and Idaho will be in an extremely dire situation. The difficult drought year resulted in 549 fewer jobs in the malting industry.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary